

REMARKS

This Amendment is in response to the Office Action dated April 22, 2005 in which claims 20-26 were allowed, claims 1-19, 27-30 and 33 were initially rejected, and claims 31 and 32 were indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicant would like to thank the Examiner for the indicated allowability for claims 20-26, 31 and 32 and respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of the remaining claims in view of the above-amendments and the following remarks.

I. CLAIM OBJECTIONS

Claims 29-30 were objected to due to typographical errors in the claim numbering and dependency. With this Amendment, claims 29-31 are renumbered as claims 31-33, respectively. In addition, claim 32 is amended to more properly depend from claim 27. With these amendments, Applicant requests that the objection to the claims be withdrawn.

II. CLAIM REJECTION UNDER §103

Claim 1-18, 27-30 and 33 were rejected under §103(a) as being unpatentable over Henze et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,803,215, in view of Okamoto et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,445,137. Claim 19 was rejected under §103(a) as being unpatentable over Henze in view of Okamoto et al. and further in view of Ervin et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,509,697.

However, on page 7 of the Office Action, the Examiner indicated the prior art fails to disclose means for converting the DC distribution voltage at each distributed output into a respective local DC voltage output.

Accordingly, independent claims 1 and 33 are amended such that a respective electronic ballast comprises adaptations for respective local DC voltage control. Dependent claim 4 is amended to be consistent with the amendments to independent claim 1. Claim 7 is amended to include the elements of claim 31, which

is cancelled. Claim 27 now includes the step of converting the DC distribution output into a respective local DC voltage output. With these amendments, independent claims 1, 27 and 33 are believed to be in condition for allowance, together with their respective dependent claims.

The Director is authorized to charge any fee deficiency required by this paper or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 23-1123.

Respectfully submitted,

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